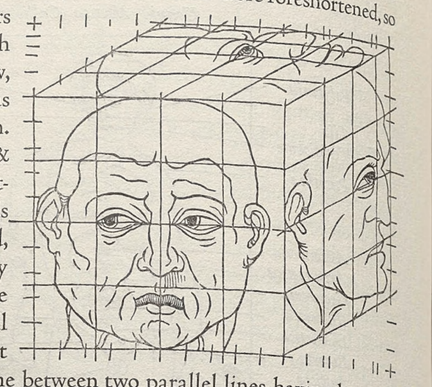
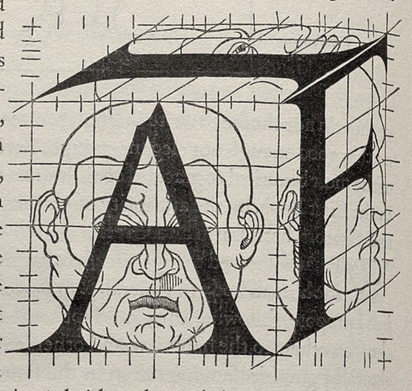
AS these three faces are so drawn that one is seen entire, the second only half or thereabouts, & the third still more foreshortened, so among our Attic letters there are some of which we have a complete view, squared—that is to say, as broad as they are high. Others are less broad, & others even more restricted in breadth. And this is what I have already said, when I wrote how many units of breadth each one of our letters has. In all except the Q the height must always be the same between two parallel lines having between them the space of ten units, that is to say, ten times the thickness of the I. And of this letter Q the body is ten units in height, like the other letters; and its tail of four units, which are in addition to the said ten units, and are outside and below the two parallel lines.



THE next figure shows us that, even as the face of a man, maintaining its height, can be seen sometimes as broad as it is high,—and this in a front view,—and at other times less broad than high, according as it is turned, so all our letters, as I have said before, must always be equal in height, but in breadth, no; and again the reason appears in following the natural conditions of the human body and of the face as well. We see that there are some men larger of body and of face than others, and some more active & brisk and sprightly; some healthier and others wiser; some more virtuous, & others less so. In like manner, there



are letters which are greater & of more value than others. Such are the vowels, without which there can be no true syllable, Greek, Latin, or French. For in every syllable that one can pronounce there is at least one vowel. And very often a syllable—and a word as well—consists of one of the said vowels (which are five in number, namely A, E, I, O, and U) without any other letter.

Example of A alone forming a syllable [in Latin]: A-men; forming a word: Ne discesseris a me. Example in French of A alone in a syllable & in a word: A-costumez a bien dire et bien faire. Example of E alone making a syllable & a word [in Latin]: E-tiam, e-ia, e regione. Example in French when it is alone in a syllable: E-stienne est en e-smoy. Example of I forming a syllable and a word [in Latin]: I-tem, i-bo, i. Terence, in *Andria*: I, præ, sequar.* Our example in French will be only when it forms a syllable, & not a word; for I can neither be nor make a word in our tongue, albeit in figures & in tales it is often put for the numeral one. Therefore, the examples will be I-tem, which came from the Latin into French, and I-ssue de table. O, in like manner, can form a syllable & a word. Syllable: O-lor, o-men. Word: O Mœlibeæ Deus nobis hæc o-cia [otia] fecit. Examples in French: O-stier doibt hommage au caignard. O quil est peu de bons amys! The V [U] is used only as a syllable; for in Latin it does not form a word by itself. Therefore, the example will be: U-sus u-bique u-alet. In French we can say: U-sage and u-sufruyct. The Picard, to be sure, uses U as a word when he says: U est no fieux. U est men baron.

* *Act* I, *scene* I, 144.

THere are other letters which are tractable, and of such easy virtue that they glide along and, becoming as it were invisible, vanish in certain syllables, having a Mute before them, and do not always lengthen the quality of the vowels placed before them. They are called, in Latin, *Liquidæ, quia liquescunt post mutas positas in eadem syllaba.*[35] The Liquids, which are four in number,—namely, L, M, N, and R,—are so fluid in metrical quantity, that sometimes they make 'position',[36] that is to say, extend and make long the preceding vowel, and sometimes leave it short, as in these Latin words, *Patris, Tenebræ, Stagna;* which thing can be seen abundantly in Terentian, where he says:—

Ecce stagna madent triplici sic syllaba pacto
Temporis accessu non tantum est reddita longa
Sed dedit et vireis geminis augere Trocheum.†

† *Terentianus Maurus (a grammarian of the late first century after Christ), 'De literis, syllabis, pedibus, et metris,' II, lines* 1104–1106.

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